

DLI
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SUBJECT: Thoughts from a Discussion with
on the Soviet Union, October 1980

STAT

1. The Soviets recognize themselves as a great power now. They believe the United States is not prepared to accept that fact.

2. The Soviets don't believe the rules have changed. Therefore, they are entitled to hegemony in Afghanistan and in Cuba (they rationalize the latter on the grounds that in 1961 we botched the job in Cuba and indicated we didn't consider it important enough in our sphere to take care of the situation).

3. The Soviets feel that instability in Iran threatens them and that they must secure it if it becomes unstable enough. They don't believe the U.S. has any capability to do anything there.

4. The Soviets have always had pride in sticking things out, e.g., Afghanistan.

5. The Soviets feel that our tactical nuclear forces threaten their ICBMs with five- to six-minute targeting flight times.